



October 20, 2021

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PRESS RELEASE

FIRST GRAND JURY IN THE 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN OVER 50 YEARS RETURNS AN INDICTMENT IN LAS ANIMAS COUNTY HOMICIDE

A 3RD Judicial District Grand Jury, convened at the request of District Attorney Henry L. Solano, indicted Gina Lynn Rael and Roy Allen Elliott-Casaus III on September 23, 2021 for their involvement in an incident on March 2, 2020, that resulted in the death of Tiffany Ann (Neatherlin) Sapien.

Rael is charged with murder in the first degree - after deliberation, a Class 1 Felony. Roy Allen Elliott-Casaus III is charged with accessory to crime, a Class 4 Felony.

Rael, who is to be advised on the indictment today by video, is currently in custody at the Jefferson County jail and will be extradited to Las Animas County on a no bond hold.

There is an active warrant for Elliott-Casaus. When located, he will be held on a \$45,000 Cash Only Bond.

This grand jury indictment is the culmination of a comprehensive investigation conducted by the Trinidad Police Department, members from the 3rd Judicial District Attorney's Office and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser's Office.

A grand jury indictment is a formal accusation, based on a determination of probable cause, that an individual committed a crime under Colorado law. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Anyone with information on the location of Elliott-Casaus is asked to call 719-846-4441 or submit a tip on the Trinidad Police Department's Crimewatch page, <https://crimewatch.net/us/co/las-animas/trinidad-pd>.

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